

Using Criminal History Records for Research: Illinois' Experience

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Criminal History Record Audit

- Completeness, timeliness, and accuracy
 - Adult arrest
 - Arrest data has improved, particularly with fingerprinting automation
 - Juvenile arrests
 - Only felonies and certain misdemeanors are required
 - More limited disposition data than adults
 - Court disposition
 - Underway

Primary Research Projects

- Detailed arrest and disposition information
 - Supplement IUCR summary data and court data
- Recidivism studies
 - Juvenile recidivism study
 - IDOC/Probation recidivism tool
 - Client criminal histories and outcomes for evaluations
 - Gun offender recidivism

Gun Offender Recidivism Study

- Compare the recidivism rates for gun and non-gun offenders over a 10 year period
- Develop improved methodology that accounts time at-risk
 - Death and incapacitation

Gun Offender Recidivism Study

- Step 1: Sample
 - Coarsened exact matching on demographic information and non-gun offense history
 - N= 5,912 gun offenders; N= 5,912 non-gun offenders; N=2,090 serious gun offender unmatched subgroup
- Step 2: Account for death and incapacitation
 - Department of Corrections admission, stock, and exit files
 - Department of Public Health death certificates
 - 6% mortality rate for the sample
 - Preliminary analysis indicates gun offenders have higher death rate

Gun Offender Recidivism Study

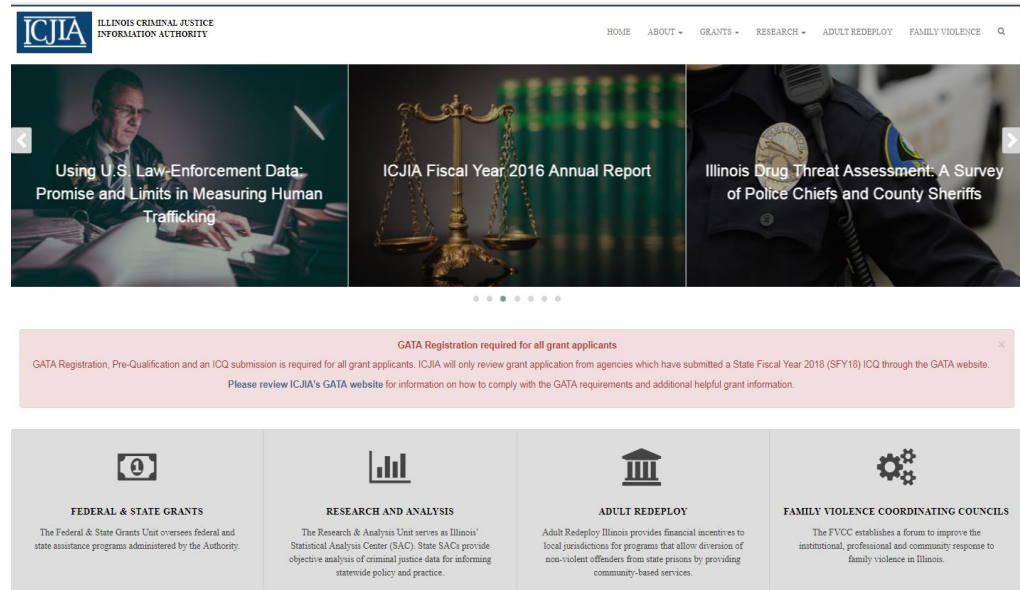
- Process used to get death data:
 - Pre-meetings with IDPH staff to outline what data existed, what format, and how to access.
 - Sent a list of data elements to IDPH.
 - Completed IRB review by ICJIA and IDPH.
 - IDPH opened up a portal through which we were able to extract the data requested.
 - Used a name/DOB matching process.

Challenges to Using CHRI

- Relational data
- Matching techniques require significant care
 - Name matching
- Expungement and other laws limiting reporting
- CHRI data limited to IL
- No ability to identify co-defendants
- Process changes – Diversionary practices

Potential of CHRI

- Linking to other data sources
- Single record file to facilitate quick policy analysis
- Linking to NIBRS offers potential to more fully understand criminal incidents, the persons involved, and the system's response



The screenshot shows the ICJIA website homepage. At the top left is the ICJIA logo and the text "ILLINOIS CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION AUTHORITY". To the right is a navigation menu with links for HOME, ABOUT, GRANTS, RESEARCH, ADULT REDEPLOY, and FAMILY VIOLENCE. Below the navigation is a carousel of three featured articles: "Using U.S. Law-Enforcement Data: Promise and Limits in Measuring Human Trafficking", "ICJIA Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Report", and "Illinois Drug Threat Assessment: A Survey of Police Chiefs and County Sheriffs". Below the carousel is a pink banner with the text "GATA Registration required for all grant applicants" and a link to the GATA website. At the bottom, there are four columns representing different units: FEDERAL & STATE GRANTS, RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS, ADULT REDEPLOY, and FAMILY VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCILS, each with an icon and a brief description of their work.

Research reports and articles: www.icjia.state.il.us

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